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Dear Chairman Ajit Pai,

I am writing in response to the proposed changes you've initiated for the internet – 17-108.

I reject any change which will make access to the internet unequal for any participant. It appears that the proposed changes will, in fact, allow for differing speeds based upon suppliers dictates and/or cost.

This is not in the best interest of the citizens of the United States – PERIOD. My rationale is that given our nearly universal use of the internet, and given our access to the many devices which allow internet access, and given that an ever increasing number of employers, vendors, educational institutions, and governmental agencies not only advocate, but often REQUIRE access to the internet, the internet is essentially raised to the status of a UTILITY. It has, in fact, become a NECESSITY in American life and as such, should be available to all citizens. Many communities are installing broadband access.

I believe the internet should be universally accessible at a reasonable speed and cost to ALL Americans. That speed should not be rated primarily on the basis of an economic gain. This serves to limit the access of Americans to important information and therefore, undermines our very democracy. Reasonable access to information is necessary for our citizenry to become and remain informed on issues affecting our government and government officials. In this age, the issues are complex and require ample time to review, digest, and reflect before making decisions or expressing views to our congressional representatives.

How will your plan ensure this access?

By allowing an internet provider to decide how fast the internet connections should be as you currently suggest, removes the “equal access” that I believe is so important.

Many large employers require applications for employment to be submitted online. There is often NO OPTION for personally submitting an application.

Many transactions such as mortgages and online vendors' sales are conducted and followed through using the internet.

You might suggest that the variations in access speed would only affect streaming of video content. Many businesses now and surely more in the future utilize streaming to link various parties and offices together for meetings and presentations. Our training firm is utilizing webinars and internet presentations at an increasing frequency.

Educational institutions offer many opportunities online. These range from individual classes to complete degree or certificate programs. This is necessary for PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT which will TRANSLATE into a STRONGER GDP. If education and research are not available online, our country will be at a serious disadvantage to other nations.

Finally, and you should recognize this from your experience with Verizon, companies cannot be trusted to do right by the country if left unchecked. This should be obvious from the cable industry which has become self-serving by disallowing subscribers to select the channels THEY WANT. No one I speak with watches 300-500 different channels. It's NOT A BARGAIN and serves no one but the providers. I am familiar with AT&T's cable offerings. I've been with Verizon since 2005 and realize that despite the services they offer, put profits over customers.

I would hope that I've at least begun to make a salient case for you to MAINTAIN NET NEUTRALITY for the good of our nation.

Regards,

Bob Walter